

Honing Discernment

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It has been a long time without input from Wisconsin Christian News! What a difficult time for Rob and family these past months, and though thoughts and prayers have been with them, we are glad to once again have the opportunity to be of encouragement.

We are living through something so far out of any kind of "normal" box that it is often hard to comprehend. Though we have been aware that there has been fraud in voting for decades, it was very blatant and widespread yet officially denied this year. Many believe that we have an illegitimate "president;" a resident of the White House, not a President! IF states or our military go ahead with forensic audits, we will find out! Oh, how we continue to pray for our Messiah to fight on behalf of His people for Truth!

In a December letter to the editor, I had sent in my personal thoughts earlier, that as in 1 Kings, we may have to tolerate a false inauguration. This would be much as AdoniYah had himself anointed as King with those who betrayed his father, David, until David arranged for the real anointing of Solomon, the chosen successor. When that happened, all those involved in the false anointing scattered to the winds! David counseled Solomon to take note of who was loyal and not, and essentially, to clean out those who betrayed. It looks as though that <u>may</u> be what is happening today, though we haven't yet seen the accounting and scattering. What a chaotic sight that would be! It certainly has been a strange time to see the national guard all over our now fenced Capital, even now, after the inauguration.

I, among many, have prayed for a reprieve, that we may have a little longer day in which to work yet before the darkness rules. But the more I watch events, study and pray, the more I see that we are further into the night than may seem apparent. I suspect that we have been living under the darkness of deception for so long that it is hard for us to comprehend it anymore. It can be called "normalcy bias." We have grown to accept the limitations as normal. Having worked with people coming out of satanic ritual abuse now for three decades, I'd say that I have been aware the darkness is present, but hadn't seen it as I do now as more of a systemic presence, <u>an</u> antichrist spirit, rather than waiting for one specific person to arise as a false christ, one "in the place of" our Real One! Although that may happen too!

It is very difficult to discuss such a complex issue with an audience as widely divergent as WCN so I will try to stay with more readily understood terminology. There is MUCH behind what I am writing that there is no room here to fully explore. Be good Bereans!

Revelation gives us much information about "THAT DAY" but there is a great deal that has gone before in the entire Word, from Genesis on, that provides the background for more full understanding. After all, the end result is for a new heavens and earth after Messiah collects His people and deals with the wickedness that has overrun this world; a return to the Garden where we can eat of the Tree of Life, which also provides healing for the nations.

Through the ages, it has been common for a people to think it must be the end times when deep trouble descends on them. We do not want to make such an error and assume just because times are difficult in America now that it IS YHWH's time to bring all things to a conclusion! Observing online comments from people of many different backgrounds, I see that there IS consideration being given to whether or not we are near THAT day. In an online forum, there are people trying to seriously discuss the mark of the beast in a format that allows only for short sets of input. There are assumptions that one common method of interpretation is the ONLY possible correct one. Attention spans to research and study in depth are often lacking. And really, spiritual things are foolishness to the natural man anyway. (1 Cor. 2:14)

Did you know that Sir Isaac Newton was a great Bible Scholar? His interpretation was that the 7 years we so often look for may already have been half completed in the years of Messiah's first ministry on earth. In that case, we may have something more like 3 ½ years to yet endure. Some modern scholars have also adopted this interpretation. Right or wrong, it may be wise then not to be dogmatic but hold loosely to the idea that we will definitely see a seven year period.

Although the turmoil in America is great, this time, we are also seeing great turmoil in a number of other nations, with several governments and/or leaders stepping down. As I write, there is word of Myanmar's (formerly Burma) new leader having been arrested by their military after election fraud was confirmed. The chaos is not limited to one nation.

It is also common for believers to be watching for the battles between good and evil, as though there are only two sides to the matter. In the past year, I have written about the THREE things that we need to be aware of, especially in regard to how it is presented in the two trees in the Garden.

There are two trees, but three "sides" or agendas:

The **Tree of Life** represents YHWH's ways, what is Good according to the Word and to our Father.

The other one, **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, is not of Him and was "off limits." I believe here is the root of the deception that if possible could deceive even the elect.

This tree's two sides are: the appearance of good though really evil, and absolute evil.

The blatantly evil agenda has been identified as a **satanic** one; and is associated with what people of the world are beginning to recognize as worldwide human trafficking and ritual sexual abuse. (See Rev.18:13) This agenda has been carried on under the apparently normal government and merchants in many nations. There is controversy over how much governments of the world really knew and/or participated in this but more is being exposed. Protection of children is a unifying cry!

The obviously good God honoring side/agenda would be to root out any and all corruption and abuse, and to return to humbly honoring the Word of God in how we govern, giving HIM all the glory and honor in doing it. If you remember though, when the people of Israel wanted a king, to be like all the other people, God warned them, through Samuel, that it would not ultimately be to their liking. A king (or government) will inevitably begin looking to preserve itself more than the people served, unless it is clearly and humbly submitted to God. Only 8 of 39 kings in the history of Israel managed that!

When we see people working hard to expose this first wickedness, many then automatically identify them as being the opposite, the good. But when we remember that second tree, we see that **we must further discern whether what we see is really the genuine good OR is it just the appearance of good?** (1 Timothy 4:1)

This agenda, that third side, is called a **Luciferian** agenda. As in the warnings of Paul:

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.
Their end will correspond to their actions....
2 Cor. 11:13-15 Berean study Bible

How do we tell? If you haven't already pressed into the Word in prayer, the time is short! Do it now! Approach Messiah in repentance for His eyes to see and ears to hear. Prayers for increased faith and discernment are in order. (1 John 4:1, 1 Kings 3:9, Matthew 24:24, Proverbs 15:21, Psalm 119:125, Romans 12:2) We look at the fruit. (Matthew 7: 16,20)

Ultimately, those who follow Messiah will overcome, though it may not appear so. (Daniel 7:25; Daniel 12:7; Revelation 12:6)

I have seen 4 references in Revelation to specifically overcoming through the word of testimony of Yeshua, keeping His commandments and not loving our lives unto death. (Look for them --or more?-- in Rev 12 through 14) And in Rev 15: 2 I see that those who overcome have gotten the victory over 4 elements: the beast, his image, his mark and the number of his name. It is such an amazing blessing we are given just for reading and studying this, showing ourselves as good Bereans, obeying as students of His Word, even if we don't have it entirely figured out. (Rev. 1: 3-20)

I am seeing that it is possible to think of the schemes of wickedness we have been living under as the first beast, a corrupt world system of commerce and politics, a Babylon system. I see that it is possible to consider that a force that rises to overcome that first beast could be the second lamb beast, appearing to be good, who covertly derives his power from the first, who is hailed and worshiped as a savior through deceitful miracles...deliverance from the blatant wickedness of the first, thus appearing to be "good." Clearly NOT a savior from God, our Messiah. After that, the REAL Messiah will arise. We are waiting for Him! HalleluYah!

I am so thankful that those whose names are written in the Book of Life will not be among those who worship that false savior. (Rev. 13:8) Now is certainly a good time to ask Him if your name is there, and what you need to do to be included!

If you would like to know more on how we view this topic, please contact us at P. O. Box 5584, De Pere, WI 54115 or email at <u>info@set-apart-ministries.org</u>